



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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| (51) International Patent Classification ⁵ : G01N 33/58, 21/55 | A1 | (11) International Publication Number: WO 91/02981 (43) International Publication Date: 7 March 1991 (07.03.91) |
| (21) International Application Number: PCT/GB90/01319 (22) International Filing Date: 24 August 1990 (24.08.90) (30) Priority data: 8919411.2 25 August 1989 (25.08.89) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): AMERSHAM INTERNATIONAL PLC [GB/GB]; Amersham Place, Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire HP7 9NA (GB). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only) : GARLAND, Peter, Bryan [GB/GB]; Hope Cottage, Sunnyway, Old Bosham, West Sussex PO18 8HQ (GB). CHARLES, Stephen, Alexander [GB/GB]; 5 Eliot Close, Heydon Hill, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP1 9JB (GB). | | (74) Agent: PENNANT, Pyers; Stevens, Hewlett & Perkins, 5 Quality Court, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1HZ (GB). (81) Designated States: AT (European patent), BE (European patent), CA, CH (European patent), DE (European patent)*, DK (European patent), ES (European patent), FR (European patent), GB (European patent), IT (European patent), JP, LU (European patent), NL (European patent), SE (European patent), US. Published <i>With international search report.</i> |
| (54) Title: ASSAY METHOD (57) Abstract A method of assaying for an analyte by the use of surface plasmon resonance spectrometry (SPRS). The analyte is a member of a non-immune ligand-receptor pair. A metal surface carries the analyte or an analogue immobilised with the other member of the ligand-receptor pair reversibly bound thereto. A fluid containing the analyte is brought into contact with the metal surface, and displacement of the other member of the ligand-receptor pair monitored by SPRS. | | |

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ASSAY METHOD

This invention concerns a method of assaying
for a macromolecular analyte by use of the technique
5 of surface plasmon resonance spectrometry (SPRS).

The phenomenon of SPR is well known and will
not be described in detail (see EPA 305109 for
example). Briefly, the intensity of monochromatic
plain-polarised light (conveniently obtained from a
10 laser) reflected from the interface between an
optically transparent material, e.g. glass, and a thin
metal layer depends on the refractive index of
material on the downstream side of the metal.
Accordingly, by measuring changes in intensity of the
15 reflected light an indication can be obtained of
changes in refractive index of material at a
particular point on the down-stream surface of the
metal. The intensity of reflected light also varies
with the angle of incidence, and reflectivity drops
20 sharply to a minimum at a particular angle which is
characteristic of the equipment.

WO 89/08260 describes a method of analysing
for an analyte in a sample by bringing the sample into
contact with a metal surface, on which an antibody has
25 previously been reversibly bound to immobilised
analyte or analogue, and monitoring displacement of
antibody as indicative of the presence or the
concentration of the analyte in the sample. That
specification is mainly concerned with hapten analytes
30 and describes only hapten-antibody and antigen-
antibody binding pairs.

EPA 276142 describes competition assays
involving an analyte and two other reagents, in which
SPRS is used to monitor the formation of a complex on a
35 solid surface. The assay involves the use of at

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least one other liquid reagent in addition to the sample. The signal resulting from complex formation on the surface may be obscured by noise resulting from non-specific binding of other macromolecules to the surface.

This invention provides a method of assaying for an analyte, preferably a macromolecular analyte, which is a member of a ligand-receptor pair other than a hapten-antibody or an antigen-antibody pair, by the use of a metal surface adapted for surface plasmon resonance spectrometry which metal surface carries the analyte or an analogue thereof immobilised thereon with the other member of the ligand-receptor pair reversibly bound thereto, which method comprises bringing a fluid containing the analyte into contact with the metal surface and observing by surface plasmon resonance spectrometry displacement of the other member of the ligand-receptor pair from the surface. The analyte is a member of a ligand-receptor pair. Many examples of such pairs are known and include the following:

| <u>Ligand</u> | <u>Receptor</u> |
|------------------------------|---|
| DNA | DNA |
| DNA | RNA |
| RNA | RNA |
| Protein | DNA |
| Protein | RNA |
| DNA | Binding drug |
| RNA | Binding drug |
| Lectin | Oligosaccharide (free or in a glycoprotein or glycolipid) |
| Neurotransmitter or analogue | Protein receptor |
| Hormone | Hormone receptor |
| Growth factor or analogue | Protein receptor |

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Differentiation factor

| | | |
|---|----------------|----------------------------------|
| | or analogue | Protein receptor |
| | Enzyme | Cofactor, substrate or inhibitor |
| | Biotin | Avidin |
| 5 | Enzyme | Prosthetic group |
| | Oligopeptide | Protein |
| | Immunoglobulin | Protein A |
| | Drug | Binding protein |

10 In the above, the term protein is used to include peptides.

The method involves the use of a metal surface adapted for surface plasmon resonance spectrometry. The metal may comprise silver or gold, conveniently in the form of a layer e.g. deposited by evaporation on a carrier such as a glass slide. The metal surface carries the analyte or an analogue thereof immobilised thereon. An analogue of the analyte is a substance which competes with the analyte for binding to the other member of the ligand-receptor pair. Often the analogue will be arranged to be as near as possible or even completely identical to the analyte. The use in assays of analyte analogues is well known. Binding of the analyte or analogue to the metal surface without loss of binding power is effected by methods which are well known. Particularly when the analyte or analogue is of low molecular weight, the use of a spacer molecule may be required. To prevent non-specific binding at a later stage in the assay, any surplus area of the metal surface may be coated e.g. with an inert protein.

Reversibly bound to the immobilised analyte or analogue is the other member of the ligand-receptor pair. In another aspect, this invention provides an assay device comprising a metal surface adapted for surface plasmon resonance spectrometry, which surface

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carries immobilised thereon a member of a ligand-receptor pair, other than a hapten-antibody or an antigen-antibody pair, with the other member of the ligand-receptor pair reversibly bound thereto. That
5 other member of the ligand-receptor pair may have been modified to increase the signal generated to increase the SPR signal generated by its removal from the metal surface. Such modification may involve addition of
10 a molecule or group of low refractive index, or more preferably high refractive index such as polystyrene, titanium dioxide or gold colloid.

Using this pre-formed device, the method of the invention is very simple. A fluid containing the analyte is brought into contact with the pre-coated
15 metal surface. Analyte in the fluid sample competes with immobilised analyte for binding to the other member of the ligand-receptor pair. Displacement of the other member of the ligand-receptor pair into solution, as a complex with analyte in the sample, is
20 monitored by surface plasmon resonance spectrometry. The method has two particular advantages:

(a) The only fluid reagent involved is the sample containing the analyte. When this is brought into contact with the coated metal surface, the presence or
25 the concentration of the analyte in the sample can be assayed within minutes or even seconds.

- the SPRS signal, generated by removal of a reagent from the metal surface, is not significantly contaminated by noise due to non-specific binding of
30 material to the surface.

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Example 1Displacement Assay using Nucleic Acid Probes

5 An oligonucleotide A (97mer) was hybridised to a complementary oligonucleotide B (17mer). Oligonucleotide B was then covalently linked to the silver surface of a slide. The slide was then blocked with hybridisation buffer. A further oligonucleotide C (50mer) which had the same sequence as part of
10 oligonucleotide B and therefore complementary to A, was then added and displacement from the silver slide of the hybridised oligonucleotide A was measured. Results using ^{32}P end-labelled oligonucleotide A showed that as the amount of oligonucleotide C was
15 increased more oligonucleotide A was released. Such changes will also be measurable by SPR.

Example 2

20 DNA Strand Displacement by SPR

MethodPreparation of oligonucleotides

25 A sixteen mer probe and a complementary ninety-seven mer target were prepared using phosphoramidite chemistry on the Applied Biosystems Model 380D DNA synthesizer. The DNA probe was modified in order to permit efficient and stable binding to the
30 silver surface. This was prepared by attaching a terminal primary amine at the 5'-end of the molecule. The amino-oligonucleotide was mixed with an equal volume of 0.1M sodium hydrogen carbonate solution pH 8.5 and to this mixture a solution of SPDP (0.25 mg for
35 each 1.0 OD of oligo used) in DMF was added. The reaction was left to equilibrate for 90 minutes at

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room temperature and then eluted through a Sephadex G25 PD10 column. Fractions containing the required product were pooled together and purified by preparative HPLC. After purification the appropriate fractions were dried
5 down by vacuum centrifugation to remove HPLC solvents and then reconstituted in a known volume of water.

Preparation of DNA Hybrid

DNA hybrid consisting of the modified 16 mer
10 and a complementary 97 mer was prepared by mixing 16 mer and 97 mer in a 1.5:1 molar ratio ensuring that the 16 mer, the immobilisable probe, was in excess. The preannealing was carried out at 65°C in 2x SSPE (300mM NaCl, 20mM NaH₂PO₄·H₂O, 2mM ethylenediaminetetra-
15 acetic acid) and the mixture was allowed to cool down to room temperature for 2hrs.

SPR Experiment

20 Using 1.8×10^{-10} moles of hybrid/ml, 1ml was pumped across a silver slide at 1µl/s after priming the slide with 2x SSPE. Following a wash step with 1ml of 2x SSPE the slide was blocked with hybridisation buffer followed by a 2x SSPE wash.
25 3×10^{-10} moles of a 50 mer, which is complementary in sequence to the 97 mer, in 1ml 2x SSPE was flowed across the slide at a speed of 1µl/s, and the change in reflectivity was monitored with time.

Control reactions involving no DNA and non-
30 complementary DNA were carried out.

Data is presented below with the No DNA control value deducted from the experimental.

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Table 1

| | <u>Target DNA</u> | <u>% change in reflectivity</u> |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 5 | No DNA control | 0 |
| | 50 mer | -1 |
| | Non-complementary DNA | +1 |

Results demonstrate displacement of the 97 mer sequence away from the silver surface by the complementary 50 base sequence. This does not occur in the absence of this oligonucleotide nor in the presence of the non-complementary sequence which does not hybridise to the 97 mer.

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CLAIMS

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1. A method of assaying for an analyte which is a member of a ligand-receptor pair other than a hapten-antibody or an antigen-antibody pair, by the use of a metal surface adapted for surface plasmon resonance spectrometry which metal surface carries the analyte or an analogue thereof immobilised thereon with the other member of the ligand-receptor pair reversibly bound thereto, which method comprises bringing a fluid containing the analyte into contact with the metal surface and observing by surface plasmon resonance spectrometry displacement of the other member of the ligand-receptor pair from the surface.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the analyte is a macromolecule.


3. An assay device comprising a metal surface adapted for surface plasmon resonance spectrometry, which surface carries immobilised thereon a member of a ligand-receptor pair, other than a hapten-antibody or an antigen-antibody pair, with the other member of the ligand-receptor pair reversibly bound thereto.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/GB 90/01319

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) ⁶ | | |
| According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC | | |
| IPC5: G 01 N 33/58, 21/55 | | |
| II. FIELDS SEARCHED | | |
| Minimum Documentation Searched ⁷ | | |
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| III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT⁹ | | |
| Category * | Citation of Document, ¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹² | Relevant to Claim No. ¹³ |
| X. | EP, A0, 276142 (ARES-SERONO RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT LIMITED PARTNERSHIP) 27 July 1988, see page 1, line 1; page 3, line 20 table 1; cited in the application | 1-3 |
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| X | WO, A, 8703093 (RADIOMETER A/S) 21 May 1987, see page 6, line 34; page 7, line 20; page 9, line 1 - line 18; claims 1,7-9 | 1-3 |
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| P,X | WO, A, 8909408 (ARES-SERONO RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT LIMITED PARTNERSHIP) 5 October 1989, see page 5, line 18; page 6, line 1; page 8, line 8 - line 20 table 2, claims | 1-3 |
| | -- | |
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| IV. CERTIFICATION | | |
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| III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT (CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET) | | |
|--|--|----------------------|
| Category * | Citation of Document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to Claim No |
| Y | US, A, 4626513 (J A BURTON ET AL) 2 December 1986, see column 1, line 5 - line 48; column 4, line 22 - line 26; column 8, line 54; column 9, line 45 claims | 1-3 |
| Y | EP, A, 0245206 (BATTELLE MEMORIAL INST) 11 November 1987, see page 21, line 1 - line 8; page 24; claims 1,28-29 | 1-3 |
| P,Y | WO, A, 8908260 (AMERSHAM INT PLC) 8 September 1989, see page 4, line 5; page 6, line 20 claims; cited in the application | 1-3 |

**ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO. PCT/GB 90/01319**

SA 39697

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on 27/09/90. The European Patent office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

| Patent document cited in search report | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
|---|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| EP-A0- 276142 | 27/07/88 | NONE | |
| WO-A- 8703093 | 21/05/87 | EP-A- 0245396 | 19/11/87 |
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| WO-A- 8908260 | 08/09/89 | AU-D- 3077489 | 31/08/89 |
| | | EP-A- 0378594 | 25/07/90 |

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European patent Office, No. 12/82

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